

## Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR PR UN

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24: AUGUST 14 MEETING

REF: USUN 3647 AND 3648

1. SUMMARY: THE COMMITTEE OF 24 HEARD PUERTO RICAN SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER JUAN MARI BRAS, PUERTO RICAN PEACE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE NOEL COLON MARTINEZ, AND CUBAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ALARCON DURING ITS DE-LIBERATIONS ON PUERTO RICO ON THE AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 14. PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE PARTY LEADER REUBEN BERRIOS WILL ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 15, FOLLOWING WHICH A RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO WILL BE INTRODUCED. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL SOCIALIST PARTY SAWS, MARI BRAS ALSO ATTACKED THE AD HOC COMMITTEE AND ITS REPORT, EMPHASIZING THE NON-BINDING CHARACTER OF THE REPORT. MARI BRAS CHARACTERIZED THE AD HOC COMMITTEE AND ITS REPORT AS "A BIG SHAM" AND DESCRIBED THE COMPACT AS BEING "IN FLAGRANT AND DIRECT VIOLATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS."

3. MARI BRAS ALSO ATTACKED INCREASING "REPRESSION

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BY THE CIA, SECRET SERVICE, FBI, AND LOCAL POLICE OF

MEMBERS OF THE PUERTO RICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT. HE CHARACTERIZED THE ARREST IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC OF THREE PUERTO RICAN "FREEDOM FIGHTERS" AS A KIDNAPPING.

4. MARI BRAS ASKED THE COMMITTEE OF 24 TO RATIFY ITS RESOLUTION (SIC) FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE.

5. MARI BRAS ALSO "REITERATED" THE "INVITATION" BY GOVERNOR RAFAEL HERNANDEZ COLON TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE TO VISIT PUERTO RICO.

(DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR EXTERIOR AFFAIRS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO AGRAIT INFORMED US THAT IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION ABOUT THE COMMITTEE OF 24 IN A RECENT PRESS CONFERENCE, GOVERNOR HERNANDEZ COLON SAID WORDS TO THE EFFECT, "THOSE GUYS OUGHT TO COME DOWN HERE, WHERE THEY WOULD LEARN A THING OR TWO.")

6. PUERTO RICAN PEACE COUNCIL LEADER NOEL COLON MARTINEZ DIRECTED MOST OF HIS REMARKS TO THE QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE CITING VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AS EVIDENCE OF THIS SUPPORT, HE ALSO PRAISED THE UPCOMING HAVANA CONFERENCE ON PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE (SEPTEMBER 5-TO-6). HE CITED EXAMPLES THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA OF SOLIDARITY WITH PUERTO RICO ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PARTICULARLY IN MEXICO, COLOMBIA, PERU, AND VENEZUELA. COLON MARTINEZ SAID US MILITARY FORCES IN PUERTO RICO ENDANGERED "FREEDOM FIGHTERS" IN LATIN AMERICA.

7. ON BEHALF OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE HAVANA CONFERENCE, NOEL COLON MARTINEZ INVITED THE COMMITTEE OF 24 TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONFERENCE. CHAIRMAN SALIM REPLIED THAT "I AM SURE THE INVITATIONS WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION."

8. CUBAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE ALARCON STATED HIS BELIEF THAT HIS DELEGATION HAD BEEN OF HELP TO THE PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT AND HAD CONTRIBUTED TO GROWING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THAT MOVEMENT. ALARCON PITCHED SOME SLOW BALLS ACROSS THE PLATE FOR MARI BRAS TO HIT BY ASKING HIM TO ADDRESS THE PAST HISTORY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMERICAN ATTEMPTS TO "BEFUDDLE" THE WORLD ON THE STRUCTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND PUERTO RICO AND THE DETAILS OF "INVOLUNTARY STERILIZATION PROGRAMS IN PUERTO RICO."

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## Message Attributes

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